General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 December 2009

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 116

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/64/L.10 and Add.1)*]

64/15. Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 61/19 of 28 November 2006, entitled "Commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade" and resolutions 62/122 of 17 December 2007 and 63/5 of 20 October 2008, entitled "Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade",

Recalling also its resolution 63/100 B of 5 December 2008, entitled "United Nations public information policies and activities",

Recalling further the designation of 25 March as the annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, beginning in 2008, as a complement to the existing International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Noting the initiatives undertaken by States in reaffirming their commitment to implement paragraphs 101 and 102 of the Durban Declaration of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, aimed at countering the legacy of slavery and contributing to the restoration of the dignity of the victims of slavery and the slave trade,[1]

Recalling, in particular, paragraph 101 of the Durban Declaration, which, inter alia, invited the international community and its members to honour the memory of the victims,

Stressing the importance of educating and informing current and future generations about the causes, consequences and lessons of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade,

Recognizing how little is known about the four-hundred-year-long transatlantic slave trade and its lasting consequences, felt throughout the world, and welcoming

[1] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

the increased attention that the General Assembly commemoration brought to the issue, including the raising of its profile in many States,

Recalling that the permanent memorial initiative within the General Assembly complements the work being done at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the Slave Route Project, including its commemorative activities,

1. *Welcomes* the initiative of the States members of the Caribbean Community to erect, at a place of prominence at United Nations Headquarters that is easily accessible to delegates, United Nations staff and visitors, a permanent memorial in acknowledgement of the tragedy and in consideration of the legacy of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade;

2. *Also welcomes* the establishment of a committee of interested States to oversee the permanent memorial project, drawn from all geographical regions of the world, with Member States from the Caribbean Community and the African Union playing a primary role, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, representatives of the Secretariat, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the New York Public Library and civil society;

3. *Endorses* the establishment of a trust fund for the permanent memorial, to be referred to as the United Nations Trust Fund for Partnerships – Permanent Memorial, which will be administered by the United Nations Office for Partnerships, and notes the status of voluntary contributions currently held in the Trust Fund, which currently amount to 346,118 United States dollars;

4. *Welcomes* the appointment of a Goodwill Ambassador to assist with re-engaging international attention on the horrific nature of slavery, the transatlantic slave trade and their legacy of discrimination, while promoting and supporting the media outreach and resource mobilization efforts of the initiative;

5. *Recognizes* the importance and necessity of sustained voluntary contribution in order to achieve in a timely manner the goal of erecting a permanent memorial in honour of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade;

6. *Expresses sincere appreciation* to those Member States that have already made contributions to the Trust Fund, and invites Member States and other interested parties that have not done so to do likewise;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General, the Secretariat and, in particular, the United Nations Office for Partnerships and members of the committee for their invaluable support, technical advice and assistance towards implementation of the project;

8. *Reiterates its request* contained in resolutions 61/19 and 63/5 for Member States that have not already done so to develop educational programmes, including through school curricula, designed to educate and inculcate in future generations an understanding of the lessons, history and consequences of slavery and the slave trade;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to launch an international design competition for the permanent memorial, which is to be funded from the Trust Fund, in view of the considerable experience of that Organization with the Slave Route Project, international competitions and its worldwide presence through its network of field offices and National Commissions;

10. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to assist the committee in defining guidelines for the selection process and in identifying qualified candidates from its pool of international specialists to serve on the international jury;

11. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the countries concerned and with relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate steps to enhance world public awareness of the commemorative activities and the permanent memorial initiative, and to continue to facilitate efforts to erect the permanent memorial at United Nations Headquarters, within existing resources;

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery,[2] which highlights developments relating to the diverse educational outreach strategy to increase awareness of and to educate future generations about the causes, consequences, lessons and legacy of the four-hundred-year-long slave trade and to communicate the dangers of racism and prejudice, and encourages continued action in this regard;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on continued action to implement the programme of educational outreach, including action by Member States, as well as steps to enhance world public awareness of the commemorative activities and the permanent memorial initiative;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Office for Partnerships, through the Secretary-General, to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the status of the Trust Fund, and in particular on contributions received and their utilization;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade".

47th plenary meeting
16 November 2009

[2] A/64/299.